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UNI Grad Student News, v15n2, October 2016

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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Message from the Dean



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Greetings Graduate Community! With October soon ending, over half of our fall semester already completed, it is a busy time for all with deadlines fast approaching for final projects, reports, and exams. While the work is ongoing, we have to remember to put it in perspective and make sure that we also take some time to explore the opportunities that enhance and complement our classwork.

This semester, the Graduate College has held a series of workshops for graduate students with a focus on professional development. We have sponsored several workshops in October including “Crafting a Successful Personal Statement” as a follow up to Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS). Dr. Leila Rod-Welch presented “Information Literacy- Using the Rod Library Like a Graduate Student” and the workshop on Resume Writing for Graduate Students is scheduled for November 7. We have also collaborated with the Center for Academic Ethics

on the workshops Avoiding Plagiarism as well as a research-focused series of “Ethical Issues in ...” Hopefully, many of you have had a chance to attend a Brown Bag Seminar where graduate faculty present their research. Review the Events Calendar on the Graduate College website www.grad.uni.edu for upcoming presentations.

The 3rd Annual Graduate Student Social Mixer, held on September 15 in Rod Library, was a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff to network. A Graduate Student Social Mixer is being planned in January as a kick off for spring semester. Have you visited the UNI Museum? If not, take time to experience the fascinating history and exhibits on the first floor of the Rod Library. Check out the article in this issue. For more information, including a calendar of exhibits, visit <https://museum.library.uni.edu/>.

We continue with our “Building Graduate Community” focus and encourage graduate students to reach across disciplines here at UNI and build support networks and create a sense of belonging within the Graduate Community. Get connected with UNI GradChat on Facebook to continue to build Graduate Community! UNI GradChat is open only to UNI graduate students.

Finally, I want you all to “Save the Date” for our 10th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on April 4, 2017. This event is an opportunity for graduate students to present their scholarship or creative activity on a wide-ranging platform to the University community. More information to come soon on our website (www.grad.uni.edu)!

In closing, during this busy time as you progress in your program, remember to take advantage of opportunities around you to enrich your graduate school experience and let’s work together to build Graduate Community!

Sincerely,
Kavita Dhanwada



Jenny Becker is the Director of Field Instruction in the Department of Social Work Department and UNI alumna, having earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work in 1995. The following year she was awarded her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW).

Prior to 2014 when Becker assumed her current position, her previous Cedar Valley work in human services were interesting and diverse. Past employers included Exceptional Persons Inc., the Iowa Department of Human Services in Black Hawk County, the Mental Health Institute in Independence, IA and the Area Education Agency 1 out of Elkader, IA. Becker noted that all these experiences paved the way to her current position at UNI.

When asked what her experience was like in the transition from her former positions to her current position as Director of Field Instruction, Becker said, "Choosing to leave the field of direct practice with children, families, organizations and communities was not an easy one, but to have a larger impact on our client base by leaving a fingerprint, no matter how faint, on the social workers who come after me, is a gift." The attraction to the position, according to Becker, were the opportunities to share her passion for the field and contribute to the learning of future social workers.

Becker works with both undergraduate and graduate students. Her primary responsibility is to ensure there are enough viable field placements to meet the educational needs and professional goals of their students, whether it be in Cedar Valley, in Iowa, outside the state, or internationally. Becker reported that the Field Program averages around 115 students in the field each year. She explained, "Our undergraduate students clock in a minimum of 440 hours at each internship whereas our graduate students put in anywhere from 400-500 hours of field experience each year, for an average of over 52,000 hours of field experiences each year in our communities." The Department has recently added a Distance Education MSW Program so Becker has been active in securing sites in more remote parts of the state to serve the needs of this student demographic. Currently, the Social Work Field Program partners with 294 sites in 72 Iowa communities. Becker said, "We are blessed with wonderful partners who work hard to provide challenging and educational field experiences to our students." This include partnerships with other UNI programs, to include the Dean of Students, Classic Upward Bound, the Counseling Center, the Office of Compliance and Equity Management, and Student Disability Services. Becker also coordinates resume building and

interview skill development sessions for students through Career Services and the Graduate College.

In addition to overseeing field sites for internship experiences, Becker conducts field orientation sessions required by all students, preps faculty liaisons who are taking over supervision of field groups, and supports the student and the liaison throughout the field experience as needed. Becker maintains online training modules for agency supervisors to view prior to taking on a social work field student and ensures the supervisor has all the tools and supports needed to provide for a wonderful field experience for their social work intern.

Becker serves on the Department's Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees, the Awards and Scholarships Committee, and the Graduate Admissions Committee, as well as chairs the Field Education Committee. According to Becker, "The Social Work Department supports providing relevant and needed professional development trainings for community human service organizations to contribute to their knowledge base." Becker organizes and leads fall conferences, Social Work Ethics trainings and LISW Clinical Supervision workshops.

Currently, the Social Work Department is making plans for their first Study Abroad partnership for international internships. Last summer, Dr. Cindy Juby, Department of Social Work Head, Philip Plourde, Executive Director of International Programs, and Becker visited Korea. According to Becker, "Following a visit to Korea last summer, we are hosting two Korean universities this year in our efforts to establish this exchange relationship."



CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE

ELIZABETH KOSMISKI



Elizabeth Kosmiski, a Cedar Falls native, is a first-year graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology program and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Disorders from UNI in May 2016. When asked why she chose to continue her studies at UNI in the Speech-Language Pathology program, Kosmiski replied, "As an undergraduate, I saw how much our professors and supervisors truly care about both students and clients,

and I believe this is the type of environment that fosters caring, competent clinicians." She had also conducted undergraduate research with Dr. Jennifer Garrett, a professor in the program, and was excited about the possibility to continue with this research as a master's thesis.

This semester, Kosmiski is beginning work on her thesis with Dr. Garrett, which will be an inclusive book club for children with autism spectrum disorder and she also works with a client twice a week. She is involved in the many opportunities the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program offers, including Spectrum

Preschool Playdates, International Club, and UNI's chapter of the National Student Speech Language & Hearing Association. Kosmiski also serves as a member on the Speakers Committee for the Iowa Conference on Communicative Disorders, an annual professional conference coordinated by students in the department.

When asked what has inspired or influenced her most in her graduate program thus far, Kosmiski replied, "All of my professors inspire me every day because of their genuine passion for this field, their clients, and their students. I am also inspired by my supervisors, our office staff, my cohort, and not only my own client, but all the clients I interact with at UNI's Roy Eblen Speech and Hearing Clinic." After graduation, Kosmiski hopes to pursue her career as a speech language pathologist in a school setting or as an early intervention team member, as well as continue to conduct research in the field. In her free time Kosmiski enjoys reading and watching movies and television series, especially those that have characters with communicative disorders that relate to her program, such as ABC's *Speechless*, which has a character with cerebral palsy who uses an alternative and augmentative communication device and navigating a mainstreamed educational setting together with his family.

ALUMNI PROFILE:

KEN SMITH



Ken Smith is the Director of Student Affairs for the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago Rockford Campus in Rockford, IL. Smith, originally from Chicago, earned his Master of Arts in Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs from UNI in 2007. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Manchester University in North Manchester, IN.

Having been very involved on campus as an undergraduate, Smith realized he enjoyed working in a higher education setting and chose to pursue a career in Student Affairs.

From 2007-2012 Smith was employed by Lewis University in Romeoville, IL in Residence Life and as the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Services. He earned his second graduate degree in Organizational Leadership from Lewis University in 2011. He has been employed in his current position as Director of Student Affairs since 2012. Smith serves as a resource to assist students in their academic pursuits and personal development.

He travels nationally in his student recruitment activities for the College of Pharmacy and works collaboratively with his colleagues in the College of Medicine and College of Nursing. Smith is currently pursuing his doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

Reflecting upon his graduate student experience at UNI, Smith commended his professors, staff members, and fellow classmates for creating a great graduate school experience. He gained valuable international experiences through internships in England and Poland. When asked if he had any advice for UNI graduate students, Smith replied, "Be open to opportunities regardless as to the location. You never know what new doors of opportunities it may create for you." Learn about the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago Rockford Campus at <https://pharmacy.uic.edu/about/rockford-campus>.

UNI MUSEUM AT THE ROD LIBRARY

Nathan Arndt, the museum curator, took the Graduate College Graduate Assistants, Jamie Farley and Angela Ross, on a tour of the UNI Museum and highlighted the exhibits and services the museum has to offer. The UNI Museum, established in 1892 and originally housed in Old Gilchrist Hall, served as a resource for students with a focused collection in Geology and Zoology. The museum recently relocated to the first floor of Rod Library from the Hudson Road facility and serves multiple functions for UNI students. As a teaching museum with a collection of over 160,000 objects, students are able to work directly with historic artifacts while conducting interactive research. The museum is also the home of The Center for the History of Rural Iowa Education and Culture which houses the largest collection of documents relating to the Iowa rural school system.

The current exhibits at the UNI Museum include "Ballroom Bash: Iowa's Rock n' Roll Legacy" and "Culture and Currency During the Civil War." "Ballroom Bash" shows Iowa's influence on the formation and popularization of the rock revolution of the 1950's and how the state has continued to influence the industry today. Part of this exhibit is the ongoing concert series, "Rock the Stacks", which brings free live performances from multiple musical types from across the state. "Culture and Currency" examines the cultural significance of printed currency and the images and people depicted on Civil War currency.

The UNI Museum has a presence throughout campus with a polar bear on display in McCollum Science Hall, an exhibit, "Old Gilchrist Hall: A Memory Etched in Flame" is located on the second floor of Gilchrist Hall, and a collection of UNI memorabilia is located on the first floor of Seerley Hall outside the Office of the President. Additionally, The Great Reading Room in Seerley Hall houses the murals of William De Leftwich Dodge, a famous artist from New York, who came to Cedar Falls and painted the three panel mural in 1920 & 1921.

The UNI Museum is working toward making its collections digitally interactive through the use of personal devices where students and staff can view collections and artifacts at home. The exhibits in the library will also involve technology to interactively view artifacts. Another great feature of the museum is the Travelling Trunks program, which is available to area educators of all levels. Educators may reserve trunks of artifacts for classroom use to enhance students' learning experiences. The museum

also has integrated classroom space for class lectures and student interaction with the objects and artifacts.

If you are interested in museum or archival work, there are two graduate assistant positions offered every year in the Center for History of Rural Iowa Education and Culture. The UNI Museum is always looking for volunteers to work on the collections or help with special events. To learn more about the UNI Museum, please visit <https://museum.library.uni.edu/>.



GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIAL MIXER RECAP

The Graduate College hosted the 3rd Annual Graduate Student Social Mixer on Thursday, September 15 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Rod Library Meeting Room. Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, Dean of the Graduate College, provided the welcome and introduced the Graduate College staff. Jeremy Rosel, a Public Policy student, shared a proposal to reconfigure graduate student representation on the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG). This event was a great opportunity for students to meet and network with other graduate students, as well as faculty and staff members in the UNI Graduate Community. There were 50 students representing 18 different graduate programs and a number of faculty and staff who attended the event. Look for details on the Graduate Student Social Mixer to be scheduled in January in our next newsletter.



UNI Grad Chat

A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal line with a solid black circle in the center, flanked by short horizontal segments.

Join the **UNI Grad Chat** group on Facebook today to connect with fellow graduate students, and learn about events and professional development opportunities!

Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/>

THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL (TAGS) RECAP

The Graduate College hosted 150 students who attended the 10th Annual Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS) on Tuesday, September 27 from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in the Maucker Union Ballroom. This annual event is a great opportunity for undergraduate students to learn how to develop a competitive graduate or professional school application. Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, Dean of the Graduate College, welcomed the students and then served as the moderator of the Graduate Faculty Panel. Panelists included Dr. Kevin Finn, Professor, School of Kinesiology, Allied Health & Human Services, Dr. Helen Harton, Professor, Department of Psychology, Dr. Wendy Hoofnagle, Associate Professor, Department of Languages and Literatures, and Dr. Ira Simet, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The faculty panelists shared their extensive experiences in guiding undergraduate students through the graduate school application process, serving on selection committees for graduate programs, and advising graduate students in applying to doctoral programs. Students' questions for the panelists were previously submitted as well as from the audience.

Following the Graduate Faculty Panel, Dr. Barbara Cutter, Associate Dean for Graduate Academic Affairs presented "Thinking About Graduate School?" The presentation included reasons to pursue a graduate degree and differences between the undergraduate and graduate academic experiences. Dr. Cutter also reviewed the different types of graduate programs and degrees as well as entrance examinations required. Advice on seeking letters of recommendations from faculty and potential sources of financial assistance concluded the presentation.

TAGS concluded with "Demystifying the GRE," presented by Academic Learning Center staff. Deanne Gute, Emily Borchering, and Latricia Hylton reviewed the three components of the GRE which includes Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. They also shared recommendations for GRE preparation strategies.

Students' evaluations included comments such as "Helpful for me to plan my future study," "Loved the panel and the resources," and "I'm a senior and I wish I had come last year." The Graduate College staff also appreciated students' ideas for the 2017 TAGS.

To review Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS) 2016 Information including the handouts, presentations, and additional resources go to at <https://www.grad.uni.edu/thinking-about-graduate-school-tags-information>.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: INFORMATION LITERACY RECAP

The Graduate College and Rod Library teamed up to host a Professional Development Workshop for Graduate Students entitled, "Information Literacy for Graduate Students: Everything a Graduate Student Should Know Before Starting a Research Project" on Wednesday, October 5 with two sessions offered from 10-11:30 am and from 2-3:30 p.m. in Rod Library Room 373.

As the workshop presenter, Dr. Leila Rod-Welch, Outreach Services Librarian for Rod Library, took the students on a tour of the library's website, accessing resources on finding books and scholarly articles, as well as using Interlibrary Loan for their research. Students also learned how to utilize the library's advanced search capabilities to access Catalog, One Search!, numerous subject databases, and Google Scholar through their UNI subscription. Dr. Rod-Welch also highlighted Rod Library's Liaison Librarian Services and the availability of one-on-one consultation service <https://www.library.uni.edu/research-help/consultation> that students can take advantage of for assistance with research assignments and other class projects. You can review research guides for graduate students, distance learners, faculty, and persons with disabilities at <https://www.library.uni.edu/info-for>.



PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP RECAP

The Graduate College sponsored the workshop, "Crafting a Successful Personal Statement" on Monday, October 10 from 12:00-12:50 p.m. in the Rod Library ScholarSpace. Forty students attended the workshop which was a follow up to Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS) held in September. Deanne Gute, Writing Center Coordinator from the Academic Learning Center, led discussion in topic areas including low-stress "get it started" strategies, tips on matching your strengths to what graduate programs want, ideas for developing and organizing the document, and instruction on polishing the writing for maximum impact. This workshop was very helpful for undergraduate students already in the process of writing a personal statement, as well as those who are in the beginning stages of considering what to include in a personal statement and how to get started. From the workshop evaluations, students appreciated the handouts and examples used throughout the presentation and felt more knowledgeable on how to craft a personal statement that will help them stand out among other graduate school candidates. Students' comments included, "I would have loved to learn even more, the content was great! It was very useful and helped me generate some ideas on how to start my personal essay," "Great workshop-this really helped me out!" Gute's presentation is posted on the Graduate College website at Thinking About Graduate School 2015 Resources <http://www.grad.uni.edu/thinking-about-graduate-school>. To make an appointment for personal statement assistance, contact the Writing Center <http://www.uni.edu/unialc/writing-center> at 273-2361.

10th Annual Graduate Student Symposium

Building Graduate Community

Save the Date for Tuesday, April 4, 2017!

All first and second year graduate students are invited to participate in poster and oral presentations as well as creative performances. Build your resume or CV, showcase your work, gain presentation experience, and network with the Graduate Community.

More information coming soon!

GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News contact gradlife@uni.edu.
With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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